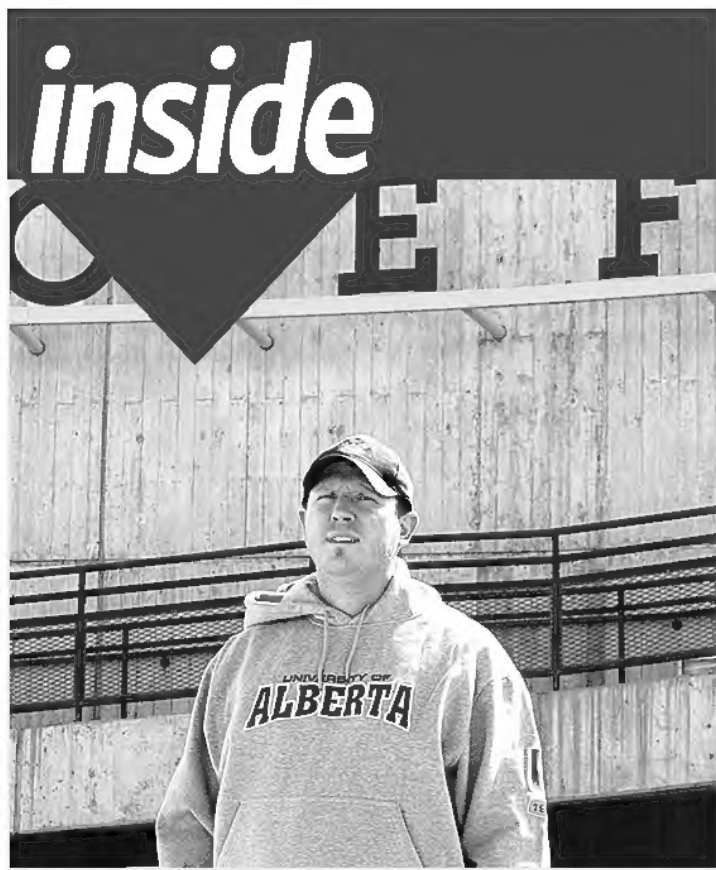




# THE GATEWAY



volume C1 number 45 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca) ♦ tuesday, april 5, 2011



## Slow and Steady wins the race

Jeff Stead steps up as the interim head coach for the Gridiron Golden Bears with aims to bring a new swagger to the team.

SPORTS, PAGE 13



## Summer viewin'

The Gateway looks forward to the summer's biggest film busts and blockbusters.

A&E, PAGE 11



## Hastman's clueless campaign

Simon Yackulic picks apart the Conservative candidate's campaign in Edmonton-Strathcona for ignoring student voters.

OPINION, PAGE 8

## Faculties to face two per cent cuts

University expects a \$4.9-million deficit for 2011-2012 year, faculties to assess where to make cuts

APRIL HUDSON  
News Writer

Due to a zero per cent increase in funding from the provincial government, faculties at the U of A will be forced to slash spending in the 2011-2012 academic year.

The zero per cent increase effectively translates to a decrease in the forecasted operating budget. The cuts mean making no allowance for increasing costs, and forcing the individual faculties to pick up the resulting two per cent decrease with their own funds.

In anticipation of this cut, Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein had asked the deans of each faculty to re-do their faculty budgets by April 1 to accommodate the two per cent decrease.

"The bottom line is that while the university's budget will not decrease, it will also not increase fast enough to keep pace with the cost of doing business," Amrhein said. "What it means will be different for each dean."

While some deans will have other sources of money to draw from to cover the two per cent, the ones who don't will have to come up with their own methods of cutting costs.

"Worst case scenario [is that the] deans do less things, which may mean fewer courses, fewer pieces of equipment, or fewer professors," Amrhein said.

Dean of Arts Leslie Cormack said that cutting course sections will be the first step in preparing for the decrease.

"That is going to mean fewer spaces for students," Cormack explained. "We're trying our hardest to move things around so high-enrolment classes continue and the lower-enrolment classes are the ones that get cancelled."

Although Cormack was uncertain whether the decrease will mean a loss of jobs or not, the faculty will no longer be replacing members who have retired and will also be re-arranging its offices and cutting support staff in an effort to minimize costs.

"My hope is that we can do this by closing vacancies, primarily," Cormack said.

At the beginning of the next academic year, the faculties will have a better idea of how much money they have to work with.

"If the two per cent cut was too much, we might get the extra money back," said Cormack. If the cut is not enough, the deficit will have to be carried through to the 2012-2013 year, a possibility that is made more difficult because of last year's cuts.

The approved university budget includes an estimated shortfall of \$4.9 million, equal to 0.5 per cent of the budget, but Amrhein said it was not something to be concerned about.

"If on March 30, 2012, the 0.5 per cent deficit remains, then it has to be paid for with next year's budget," Amrhein said. "But I'm not worried about half a percent. The reason we produce a budget in a slight deficit is so more things are possible."

PLEASE SEE BUDGET ♦ PAGE 3



AARON YEO

**FOOL'S GOLD** Artists such as A Skillz headlined the first annual Act a Fool show April 1. For video of the event, look online at [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca).

## U of A to provide funds for "eHarmony for research"

Undergraduate Research Initiative will see new resources to connect students to researchers this fall term

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

The University of Alberta will be investing \$200,000 into a new undergraduate research program for the upcoming school year.

The program, dubbed the Undergraduate Research Initiative, will start up in the Students' Union Building in September and will try to connect researchers, research opportunities, and interested undergraduates on campus. In addition, a new site that has been described as "eHarmony for research" will be brought online for the

university community this fall to connect students to research opportunities.

Dean of Students Frank Robinson explained that the money could be distributed a number of ways, such as scholarships for students or in the form of conferences. An advisory board that will have student and faculty representation will distribute the money.

"My goal is I want 100 per cent of that money to go to students, be it undergrads or graduate students," Robinson said, mentioning that it could also help with an undergraduate research conference that the Students' Union has been discussing. "It may

help with a conference for celebrating undergraduate research, or whatever it takes to raise awareness."

Part of the current CAPS office on the second floor of SUB will be repurposed to a space that Robinson said would be similar to what other institutions call an Office of Undergraduate Research. He hopes it will be more of a "live and vibrant" place than the "overly administrative" image he feels is created when people talk about an undergraduate research office.

"You could have a prof from the Faculty of Science show up there and say that she's going to be in the centre

from two to four on Thursday afternoon, and you can come by for coffee, so any students interested in that could come by. We're providing opportunities for match-making," Robinson said.

"We don't want to take over what faculties are doing, we want to make it easier for them to get better students, and easier for [faculty] and students to get together."

Students' Union Vice President (Academic) James Eastham was happy with the university's commitment, which he felt followed up on language in the Academic Plan.

PLEASE SEE RESEARCH ♦ PAGE 3



# THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

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Skybox by Dan McKechnie

# Kids experiment at Science FUNday

ALANA WILLERTON  
News Staff

Elementary students and their families discovered their inner scientist on Saturday at the annual FUNday science exhibition held in the Dinwoodie Lounge.

Hosted by Science FUNdamentals, a non-profit student group based out of the University of Alberta, FUNday is a free-of-charge event that lets families experience science outside of the classroom. This year's event featured demonstrations ranging from isolating DNA from a strawberry to creating pop-bottle rockets, as well as several guest speakers. Each activity is created with the intention of promoting the fun side of science, an idea that Adam Humble, the director of FUNday 2011, believes in strongly.

"I hope they can learn something about science while having a good time, while also helping them realize that sometimes science is a bit more exciting than their elementary classroom shows them," Humble said. "I know reading out of textbooks and learning about bats and the various stuff elementary kids do doesn't really show them the exciting side of science and I don't want that to turn them off from science at an early age."

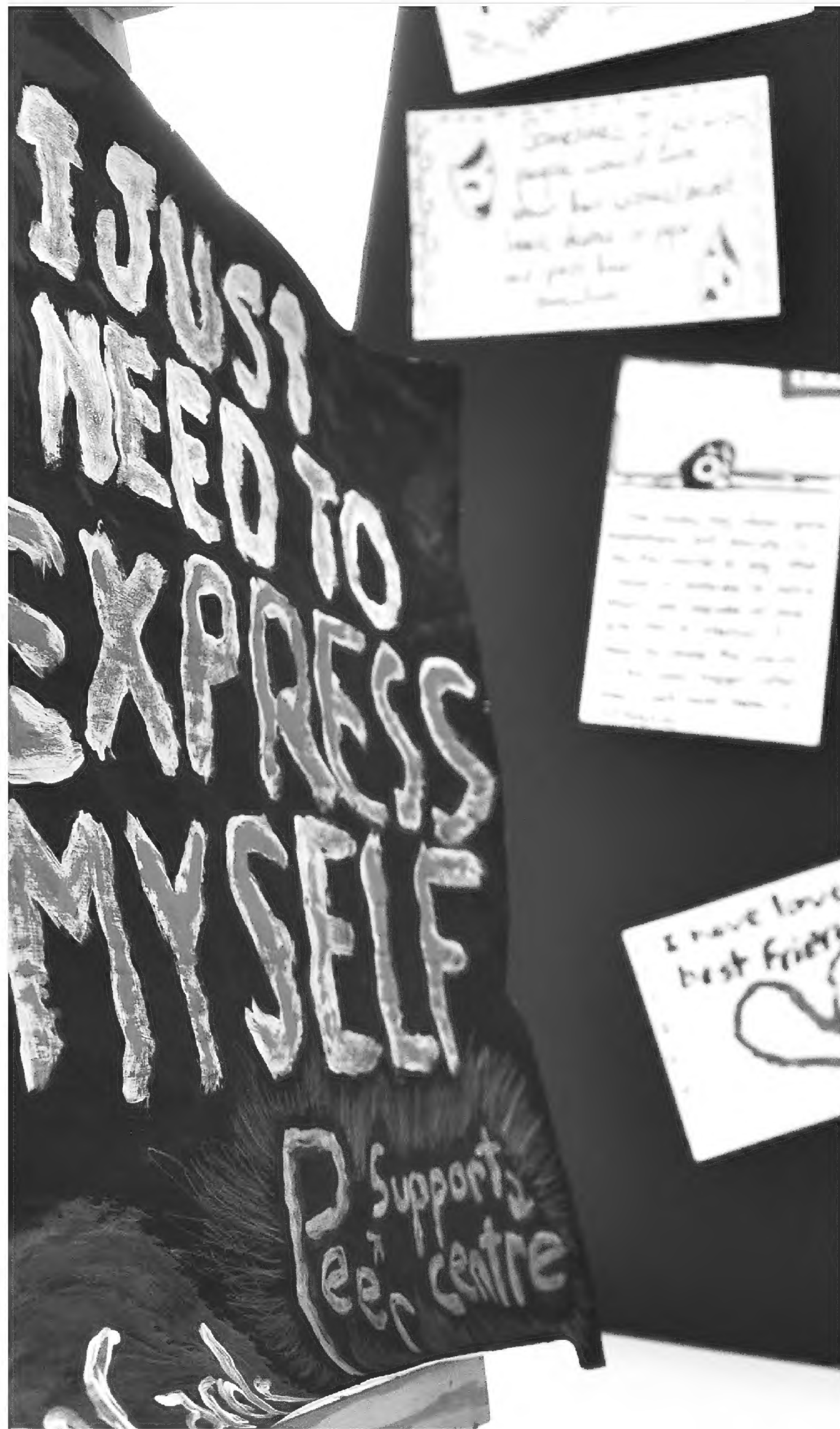
Science FUNdamentals is actively involved in the promotion of scientific fun within the classroom as well. More than 100

university volunteers are paired up and sent out to elementary schools monthly to do fun and engaging classroom science demonstrations with the students. Humble believes that with so much interaction between them, the program is beneficial for not only the elementary students, but also the students volunteering as well.

"It gives the university kids a good teaching experience," Humble explained. "Teaching kids about science and conveying that message to people younger than you is always a good skill. It's always good for the upper ages to bond with the lower ages."

Science student Taylor Bucyk, fundraising director of FUNday 2011, is enthusiastic about being able to witness elementary students getting excited about his passion. For Bucyk, who led the elephant toothpaste experiment at FUNday with fellow science student Eric de Haas, events like FUNday allow him to communicate this love for science with those who are eager to learn.

"Sometimes kids don't get exposed to these neat experiments in their education at school, so it's really cool to show them what we do as university students and expose them to our passion of science and hopefully they take that away and build on that passion, too," Bucyk said. "It's a great way for me to combine my love of science with teaching kids."



DANIELLE JENSON

**HEALTHY DOES OF REALITY** Health Week, put on by the Health and Wellness Movement student group at the U of A, took place from March 28-April 1.

# STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Scott Fenwick and Dan McKechnie

As you may be aware, Science FUNday was held over the weekend.  
**What do you think is the coolest thing about science?**



**Emma Bodnarek**  
Science I



**Laura Trovato**  
Arts IV



**Alfred Hang**  
Engineering II



**James Burtch**  
Arts I

Well, I'm in science right now at the U of A. What I like about science is, I guess the practical applications. I just like science because I think it's fun. I think it's interesting. There's always new developments. There's always new things happening. It's really exciting, and our world is big.

Astronomy, because I've always been interested in it. If I had a science background, that's what I would pursue. I watch a lot of shows on TV. They talk about dark energy and space, and it's really fascinating to me.

Coolest thing about science is just that everything's related to it. Everything in life is related to it. I'm an engineering student, so I have to like science.

The fact that it's like everyone's life — or it is life. So that's probably the coolest thing about science.



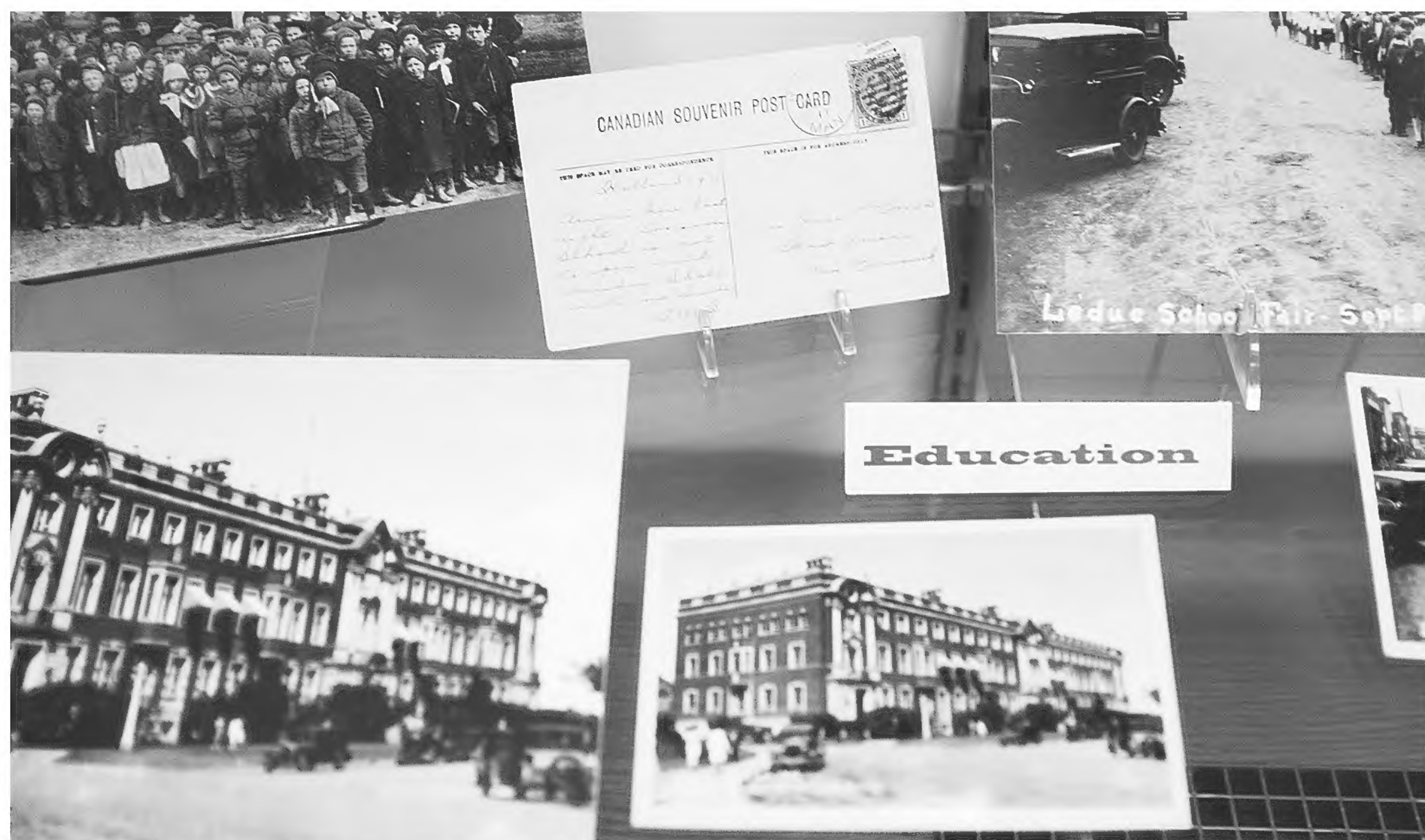
**THE GATEWAY: HITTING YOU IN THE FACE WITH THE TRUTH SINCE 1910**

# Thursday! Thursday!

In the past two decades, mixed martial arts has went from a fringe sport portrayed as human cockfighting to a cultural phenomenon, a billion-dollar industry followed by millions of people around the world. But why do people love fighting so much? What draws people in to watch two fighters put it all on the line inside a cage until one gets knocked out or submits?

**The Gateway takes a look at the fighters, business, and culture of MMA this Thursday.**





## Thousands of postcards trace the past of the western frontier

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

More than 140 years after the postcard was born, the University of Alberta Libraries is bringing a collection of more than 19,000 of them back to life.

An exhibit currently on display at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library in Rutherford South, entitled *The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards*, highlights a collection of more than 19,000 postcards tracing the settlement and development of the western frontier. As the exhibition's curator Ken Tingley explained, the showcase gives its viewers the opportunity to explore some unique primary sources while offering a rare glimpse into the daily lives of people during the early stages of prairie settlement.

"That's exactly what we were looking for. If you want to know what life was like back then, you can see what life was like on the streets of the towns, on the farms, harvests, drilling as well. It was important for us to include that," Tingley, Edmonton's first-ever historian laureate, said. "We did include some things that are more extreme because that attracts people as well. But by and large, it was a very personal look at day-to-day life."

The showcase covers 16 different themes, ranging from the struggles of early immigrants to town fairs, and offers its viewers a comprehensive depiction of the dynamics of life on the prairies during the late 1800s and early 20th century.

The task of sorting through the thousands of postcards and narrowing down the extensive collection to give the most accurate portrayal of the region was a difficult one. For Tingley, the feat of curating the postcards was largely motivated by a passion for preserving an Alberta history that's quickly losing many of its historical artifacts to degradation.

"We call these postcards ephemeral because there aren't many of them left. These resources are very valuable for researchers in all sorts of areas, from history to cultural studies. It showed a lot of foresight on the part of U of A Libraries to purchase this collection. My hope is that now they have been catalogued they can act as a valuable primary source for generations to come," Tingley said.

To further add to the academic value of the collection, Tingley went to great lengths to display the correspondence on the reverse side of the postcard. Rather than just showing the unique images of the postcard, there are several instances throughout the exhibit

where the writing becomes the focus. The result provides an even clearer portrayal of the time and space where the postcards were created.

"A lot of the pictures show people's first houses, and they would say on the back, 'This is our house' and very proudly send it back home to the country [where] they came from," Tingley said. "For me as a historian, that was of equal interest as compared to the graphic image. Some of [the postcards] provided real insights to the quality of life, what people found interesting in the new country; things they wanted to tell their family back home. When I found that kind of text, I made a point of trying to include that in the exhibit."

Throughout the extensive hours that Tingley put in to bring the university's antiquated postcard collection to a larger audience, he also reflected on the types of transient communication that contemporary society engages in.

"Now of course, we just communicate digitally and online. We send e-invites instead of personal communication through the mail. But after this I think I may be more of a postcard writer."

*The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards* runs until June 24.

## Initiatives like Gmail cut costs

BUDGET ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Amrhein said the university will focus on raising money from more sources and keeping their expenses as low as possible. The university has already taken steps to reduce their costs by moving to Gmail.

"Since we no longer have to maintain so many email systems, we save a sizable amount of money," Amrhein said. "It has been very impressive and gratifying to watch how focused all of the faculty staff and students at the university have been in getting through difficult times. Last year, we saved hundreds and hundreds of jobs through the actions we took. I am optimistic we will figure out how to do the same thing this year."

## Eastham pleased with new student research program

RESEARCH ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"One of the big things that I've been asking the university to do is make a strong commitment to undergraduate research, and a lot of that was done with the Academic Plan," Eastham said. "This is now following up on that commitment, showing that they're serious."

Another aspect of the upcoming focus on undergraduate research is moving towards Yaffle, a service from Memorial University in Newfoundland. According to its site, Yaffle — Newfoundland slang for "an armload of sticks or fish" — describes how the site functions as "an armload of research." The site will allow students to browse for research opportunities, posted by professors, and then follow up on anything they're interested in. Robinson called the system a great way to match student interests and relevant opportunities on campus,

and is hoping to have it implemented in the fall. Eastham was also excited about the idea.

"The comparison that I've heard about Yaffle is that it's similar to a Craigslist and eHarmony for research, and not just necessarily just undergraduate research. I could go on and say I'm a student looking for an opportunity, and a professor might go on and say they need a number of students to work in their lab," Eastham said.

While the \$200,000 injection is only a one-time deal, Robinson hopes the program and surrounding initiatives will be successful enough to draw additional support.

"We have to get funding eventually. We're working hard to make sure that when budgets turn around, we can get more funding into it," Robinson explained. "Next year is getting our foot in the door, and making sure that we're known."

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- STEVEN DOLLANSKY, STUDENTS' COUNCIL SPEAKER

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# Waste treatment plant emissions changing sex of fish

ANDREW JEFFREY  
News Staff

Wildlife in the North Saskatchewan River is experiencing strange effects from chemicals of everyday products that are causing sex changes in fish, changing the males into females, according to University of Alberta toxicologist Greg Goss.

Goss recently led a study that found several chemicals from everyday products such as birth control pills are polluting the river, with the major negative consequence being transgendered effects on fish.

“Our studies were on the effluent that was going from the waste treatment plant at the city limits and into the river — so at full strength, essentially exactly what was going into the river — and they showed that that causes transgendered effects. So, for example, and this is a known phenomenon, you end up with ovary-like characteristics in the testes in fish,” Goss explained. “There’s a whole slew of different chemicals that go in from all the drugs that different people take.”

Goss explained that the compound known as ethinylestradiol, which is commonly found in birth control pills, is causing this feminization problem for fish. When the chemical binds with estrogen, it has a much greater negative effect on fish than humans, as humans can filter out most of the harmful chemicals. However, the biological effects on fish can already be seen in rivers around the world that run in higher-populated areas.

“It’s in every river that’s populated in the world. In fact, if you look at places like the Pearl River Delta in China, the levels found of the same hormones that are found in the river are 10 to 100 times higher than what we’re just putting in, not even with the dilution of the river. We have a very big river, [and] only a small portion of that water is actual effluent from the waste treatment plant. In some areas in the U.S., 100 per cent of the river flow is municipal wastewater,” Goss said.

The North Saskatchewan itself is for the most part a relatively clean river, as Edmonton is the only major urban centre it runs through. However, as the city grows, the pollution in the river increases as well, due to the amount

of chemicals people unknowingly send into the river. Many other chemicals that people use and flush down the drain end up having negative biological effects on the river’s wildlife, as can already be seen with the fish feminization.

“We use personal care products like shampoos, fragrances, and everything else and we take showers and they go down through the sewer, out to the waste treatment plant,” Goss explained. “The waste treatment removes some of these, but not all. They’re not designed to remove them [...] There’s a lot that still ends up going out to the river.”

“I think eventually we’re planning on having a couple million people here and this is going to impact our river. We’re going to have lower levels of low flow during certain periods, like in the fall when the snow melts, once the glaciers are gone and then we’re going to have lower flows in the river. So less flow to dilute, more people, more drugs; we’re going to have much more of a problem.”

Goss believes the damage isn’t so severe that nothing can be done to improve the state of the river. While people can’t stop taking drugs like birth control altogether, steps can be taken to minimize the harm they do.

Goss believes this issue can be helped through educating people about what they can do on a daily basis to keep our river clean, such as dumping fewer drugs down the drain and not using products with unnecessary chemicals added to it, which go into the sewer and ultimately the river.

“I don’t think people realize by putting [drugs] in their drain, they’re putting it in the river. They kind of know it, but it’s easy if you’re sitting there and you’ve got drugs, instead of going to the drug store and taking them back, to just dump them down the drain. There’s only 10 pills or 20 pills, but if you have 5,000 people a day doing that, you have 50,000 pills going down the drain [...] it’s not your responsibility, but in reality, it is,” Goss said.

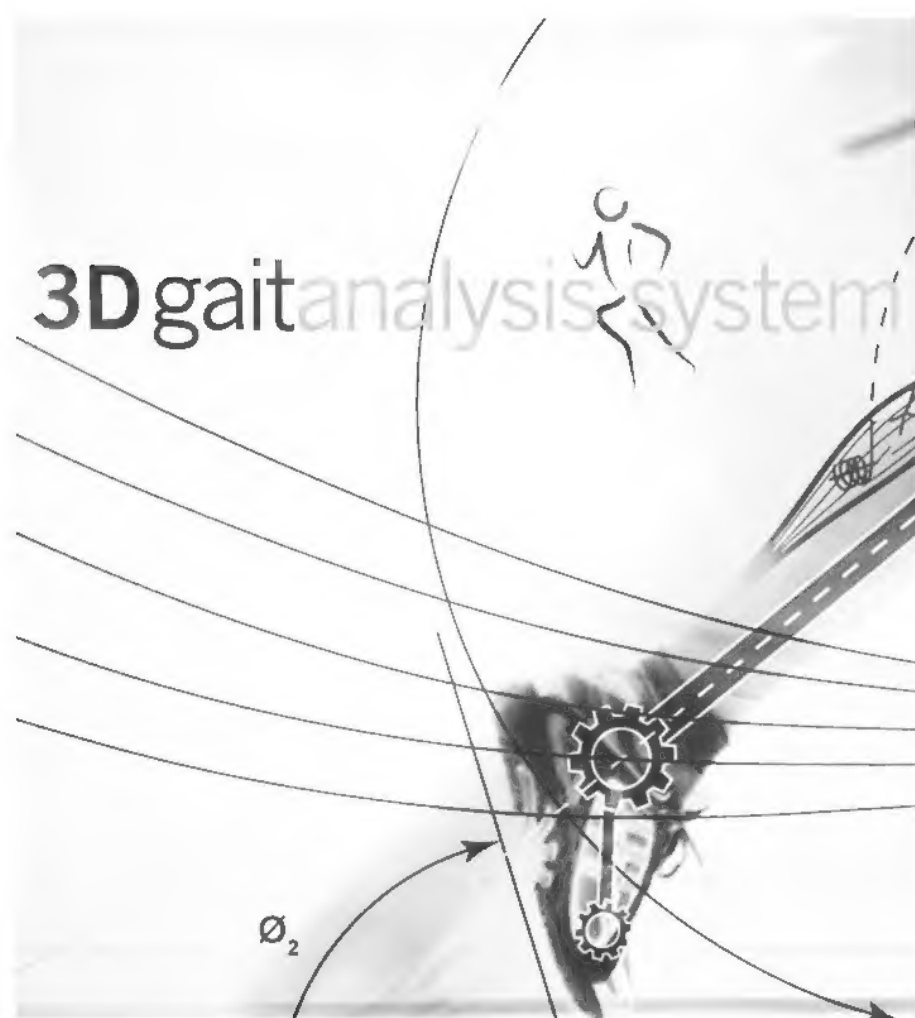
“We know that compliance with things like dumping pharmaceuticals down the drain, compliance with trying to be good environmental citizens, isn’t 100 per cent and the more education we can [provide] about the potential harm, hopefully people can clean up their act.”

Goss plans to conduct another study over the next couple of years.



SAM BROOKS

**CH-CH-CH-CHANGES** Pollution in the North Saskatchewan River is creating transgendered fish.



MATT HIRJI

## U of A gait analysis machine uses three-dimensional technology

MATT MEUSE  
News Staff

A new machine at the University of Alberta’s Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic can analyze the way people walk and run with three-dimensional technology, providing more accurate data to help prevent incorrect walking that could lead to injury.

The system uses three high-speed cameras to track reflective markers placed on a patient, modelling them with a millimetre accuracy in three dimensions as they run. The resulting data can then be used to design a customized treatment plan to address specific injuries the patient may have or be at risk of developing.

The system was designed by Reed Ferber, assistant professor of kinesiology and director of the Running Injury Clinic at the

University of Calgary.

“A full gait analysis will look at four pieces of the puzzle: mechanics, strength, flexibility, and alignment,” he said. “[We can then say] you need to do these stretches, you need to do these strengthening exercises, you need to run in this shoe — it’s all about optimizing the athlete for injury rehabilitation or injury prevention.”

“Research since 1990 [has] shown that 2D analysis has up to 30 per cent error in terms of measuring [this data], so you can’t make a good decision about somebody’s movement pattern based on a single camera,” Ferber said. “With this [system], we have extremely accurate, scientifically valid information.”

Designed for use in private physiotherapy clinics, the system makes elite athlete-level analysis accessible to amateur and recreational athletes, according to Blair Shular, one of the

physical therapists who operates the Edmonton machine.

“Instead of having three full-time lab people doing this, one clinician can do it in half an hour,” Shular said. “It’s just faster, and it makes it therefore more available to the general public.”

The entire procedure costs \$360, which includes a physical assessment, analysis on the machine, and a treatment plan. The process is split into three sessions to keep it affordable, as most health insurance plans will cover physiotherapy to a per-visit maximum — including the Students’ Union’s health plan.

The machine is the latest addition to a growing network of systems, including private clinics in Victoria and Lethbridge, and partnerships with several other universities worldwide, such as the Universities of São Paulo, Auckland, Illinois at Chicago, and McGill. The machines

are all connected to a central database in Calgary, submitting their data and comparing their results against it.

“This time next year, we’re going to have thousands and thousands of people in the database, so we’re really going to be able to advance clinical research,” Ferber said. “[Then] we can essentially provide a software update so that any of these centres that have the system can help their patients to an even larger degree, because our research has uncovered new mechanisms or new methods for injury assessment.”

Although the system was built for injury prevention, the data from this initiative is already being put to use to develop a system of performance analysis to help competitive athletes adjust their gait to run more efficiently — and therefore faster. The machine will also open to the general public this week.





VANCOUVER (CUP) — Want to buy yourself a passing essay? It may be easier to commit academic fraud than you think.

Last term, *The Ubyyssey* contacted 16 essay revision services that advertise around the University of British Columbia. Posing as desperate students, we asked if they'd be willing to write a first-year science essay. Of these 16 services, six immediately agreed to do so, knowing they'd be taking part in academic misconduct.

One particular service, EssayExperts.ca, referred us to their website where we found that the company provided custom-written essays, research papers, and even theses and dissertations at high prices.

To test its claims of originality and high-quality writing, *The Ubyyssey* bought an essay. And with the co-operation of UBC Earth and Ocean Sciences professor Michael Lipsen, we proceeded to submit it under an assumed name for grading with his TA.

We also ran it through Turnitin.com, a site that checks for recycled content. If it was this simple to plagiarize an essay, would it be just as easy to get away with it?

## What is plagiarism?

Purchasing an essay and submitting it as your own is considered a form of plagiarism. Other forms of plagiarism include using improper citations, copying published sources, copying other students, and even copying your own work from a different course without prior consent from the professor.

"I don't ever buy the idea that students didn't understand they plagiarized. The very fact they chose the other person's words as opposed to their own shows that they know value's added."

Companies who make it convenient for students to plagiarize — often referred to as essay mills — are numerous. Bestessays.com, essaytown.com, and primewritings.com are just some of what comes up when you search for "custom essay writing" through Google.

For the most part, they position themselves as research assistants who can help students with figures, sources, and examples on how to write a quality paper.

"Our papers are designed to HELP you write your own essay," states EssayExperts.ca on their FAQ page. "It is completely legal to buy a completed paper from a research service, whether pre-written or customized. Plagiarism means you sign your name to a paper you haven't written, or take credit for ideas without

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EssayExperts.ca provides an online application form that allows students to specify the topic, length, and other details about the assignment.

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In its mission statement, EssayExperts.ca boasts that it's the "leader in custom academic writing in North America."

*The Ubyyssey* ordered our own three-page earth science essay seven days before it was due

**"I don't ever buy the idea that students didn't understand they plagiarized. The very fact they chose the other person's words as opposed to their own, shows that they know value's added."**

**— Janet Giltrow**  
UBC Dean of Students

for submission, to get the lowest rate of \$27 per page. The next day, an "academic adviser" called us back and told us the fee would be raised to \$32 per page, because it was a science paper. With a final bill of \$116.14, our essay was assigned to a writer.

## Screening for fraud

There are automated plagiarism-detection services that claim to detect fraud.

For many classes, student papers are screened using Turnitin.com's originality check. Calling itself the "world's #1 most used and most effective plagiarism prevention tool," the site compares student papers to a database of publications, indexed web content, and previously submitted student papers.

Katie Povejsi, vice president of marketing at iParadigms, creators of Turnitin and WriteCheck, explained that essays from writing services may not be original.

"Essays from essay writing services often contain extensive material cribbed from online sources as well as material from banks of standard essays that have been recycled many times over," Povejsi said.

## Getting caught

Giltrow interviews all arts students who have been accused of plagiarism, and determines whether or not they'll be sent to the UBC President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline for further judgment. Once cases have been heard by the committee, the consequences can range from no penalty to suspension or expulsion from the university with a permanent notation on the offender's record.

The rules on plagiarism are reviewed by the course instructor, department head, and dean's office before going to the advisory committee. Giltrow said that usually the case is resolved without the involvement of the committee.

"Most of these cases are solved between stu-

usually don't talk about having close friends in the class [either]."

This alienation from the class could come about from lack of interest as well.

"[If] it was a course they were disinterested in, they [feel] they [don't] need to have responsibility for doing their own work. It's not a very grown-up attitude," Giltrow said. "Maybe it was their parents' idea that they come to UBC. However, I don't think it's retaliation or resistance."

## Can essay mills be fought?

Police sources confirmed that as long as essay mills are not violating any copyright laws, they are legally within their rights to operate as a business. A company like EssayExperts.ca, which sells original work to students, can continue to do so despite the fact that students may be using them to commit academic fraud.

Giltrow believes the key to undermining plagiarism is to "engage students in their studies and make them a part of a community of young scholars who are exploring an area of their discipline. Then the last thing [they] do is download something from the internet."

"Students as part of a community of scholars [...] it's all about you, and what you can do, and what you can say. I guess that's a broad mission."

Additionally, academic support is available. Unlike self-advertised tutoring or essay writing services, these programs have a system of checks and balances to ensure that no misconduct occurs.

## The grades come in

The essay that *The Ubyyssey* submitted was not detected as being plagiarized. However, the company's claims of producing high-quality work seemed to fall through, as the essay only received a mark of 58 per cent.

Additionally, our essay was sent to us six days late; the first writer assigned to our essay abandoned the project without notice and the company scrambled to find another one. Coupled with the 30 per cent late penalty — five per cent per day — the assignment received a failing mark of 28 per cent.

When we called in to complain about the poor quality and service, EssayExperts.ca offered credit and the promise that our next order would be of higher priority. We filed a request for a refund and a month later, it was granted.

When we called the company for comment for the story, they refused.



## Med school seats shouldn't be sold

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL SCHOOL'S PLAN TO SELL seats for exorbitant amounts of money to Saudi Arabia is once again illustrating the sorry state of postsecondary education in Canada. Dalhousie's plans, which are drawing ire from students and professionals, are to sell 10 of its undergraduate program seats because they can't get the spots subsidized by the government — in a time when the entire country is facing a shortage of doctors. The program is so hard up for cash that they are taking medical spots away from qualified Canadian students who could've helped address the doctor shortage in Atlantic Canada, all because the provincial and federal governments aren't giving the institution the funding they need.

Dalhousie's medical dean, Dr. Thomas Marrie, allegedly stated in an internal memo that the relationship will be mutually beneficial, as Saudi Arabia needs doctors and DMS needs cash fast and this is one way to obtain "money to function." The seats will sell for \$75,000 per student per year, which is nearly double the tuition Canadian students would be paying.

According to statistics from 2010, DMS accepted 109 students, only nine of whom were from non-Maritime areas. Next year, however, they will be giving an additional 10 seats to Saudi Arabian students who will then return to their home country to complete their residencies. This is all while Atlantic Canada and the entire country is facing a huge doctor shortage. According to the non-partisan research organization the Fraser Institute, Canada will not be able to keep up with the health-care demand accompanying an ageing population, as many doctors are getting older and close to retirement and there has been only a slight increase in enrolment in medical schools.

As critics of the plan have pointed out, DMS is publicly funded, meaning that their mandate is to train professionals who will serve the communities of the taxpayers that fund them. Even though the new students will be covering the costs of their programs themselves, they are still taking up space in a school that should be focusing its efforts on training Canadian doctors.

However, the fault doesn't lie with DMS. After DMS established a new satellite campus in Saint John, Nova Scotia, spaces for new students were freed up at the Halifax campus. But the provincial government refused to subsidize the additional seats, leaving the school with the option of leaving them empty or filling them with foreign students. Although I disagree with DMS' move, they were forced into this position by the provincial government's unwillingness to provide the institution with the money required to train the doctors the province needs.

Not only has Nova Scotia opted not to fund these extra seats, but there have also been significant cuts to the DMS operating budget in recent years, a problem students here in Alberta can relate to. In the Maritimes' case, the government needs to step up and help the entire country with a medical shortage. Health care is an important public issue, and training new doctors is an essential part of ensuring all Canadians have access to the health care they need. The onus should not be on postsecondary institutions to find the money to train new doctors, but also on the government to ensure the needs of Canadians are met, in Atlantic Canada and beyond.

It may not be possible to limit where doctors go to work after they graduate, and even though DMS accepts Maritime students, there is no guarantee that these students will stay in Eastern Canada. But the likelihood that they will remain in the Atlantic provinces is far higher than that of a Saudi student who comes to Canada on a student visa, which is why medical institutions adopt policies of accepting the majority of their students from in-province candidates. Even when medical graduates move out of their province or region, they often stay in Canada, which addresses the nationwide doctor shortage. But specifically reserving seats for students from Saudi Arabia isn't fair to Canadian students or taxpayers who are accessing health care. The government needs to intervene and make it easier for postsecondary institutions to train more new doctors. The country clearly needs it.

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor



ROSS VINCENT

## letters TO THE eds

### Student tax credits deserve consideration

To win the heart and minds of university students, Liberals have proposed a \$1 billion plan to give \$4000 to every Canadian student over the four-year university period. How they are planning to manage this is by cutting off some of the tax returns we currently receive, and raising taxes on corporations. I don't know why they are trying to appeal to already liberal-minded students since the lack of political diversity on campus is quite evident if alarming.

It is not mentioned in the Liberal mission statement which jobs we are going to apply to once they drive all the corporations out of Canada. Just a week ago, my class was told by my microfabrication professor that the list of companies he can quote as possible employees has almost doubled in the past year, a credit I think we can safely give the Harper tax cuts. As a student who has been employed by a corporation two out of three summers, I was shocked to see the Liberals were not able to explain why Casman Building could afford to ever hire a summer student again if they are out an extra two per cent of their entire profits. So maybe with the help of the Liberals, I'll be able to pay for one course. But ne semester. But without a summer job, I will not be able to afford living.

Tax credits on the other hand, are a concept I think worthy of a second look. For a tax credit, students are forced to seek summer employment and create the value that pays their tuition. The idea is that students will be taxed like regular workers on the payment for their work, but will have the taxation returned once the student has proven able to pursue their educational goal. The value is not stolen from other citizens, classical incentives for capitalism remain, the economy remains flourishing from the labour provided, and dead weights that use free money given to them by a utopian government as an excuse to take a year off after high school are weeded out.

When a political party tries to use us students as a means to an election, by robbing people who are successful to hand us services for free, the challenge is not to remain silent, but to speak out.

ARASH VAFAEI  
Engineering IV

### Gender equality not just for women

RE: ("Women lag behind in earning doctoral degrees: StatsCan," Tannara Yelland, March 31)

I find it telling that this article bemoans that 47 per cent of doctoral candidates are female, while making bare mention of the fact that women make up 58 per cent and 56 per cent of undergraduate and master's degree students,

respectively. The undergraduate and masters gaps where females outnumber males are apparently not a concern; it's only when females are in the minority that universities see a problem. Maybe the focus should be on getting more males to enroll in university at all than worry about the three per cent difference in doctoral program participation.

Likewise, there are numerous programs to encourage females to enroll in traditionally male-dominated areas of study such as engineering, science, and technology. However, there are few (if any) designed to help males consider such female-dominated areas such as education, nursing, or nutrition. Does this imbalance not matter, or should the situation be examined only when it appears females alone are the ones being maligned by biases and stereotypes?

I'm all for encouraging students to study non-traditional areas and encourage equal opportunity in these areas, but let's at least make it fair for all students and not for the benefit of one group over another.

SAM FERREY  
Business IV

## from THE web

### Slates by any other name

RE: ("Council Forum," Siwei Chen, March 31)

The whole "slate fix" seems

somewhat dumb. You're allowing candidates to be slates in everything but name (endorse, same colour scheme, design, platform, etc) but just not outright identify as such. It's a fine distinction that I guarantee will result in candidates not knowing where the line is (can you have a unifying symbol), and getting disqualified as a result.

Keep the old system: allow slates (they were hardly ever used in my time), and keep the old restriction on endorsement. Otherwise, adopt an "anything goes" mentality (slates + endorsements) or no endorsements at all. The proposed solution seems to use the worst from both worlds.

"OLD SCHOOL SU HACK"  
Via Internet

### Some solutions for low council attendance

RE: ("Council tackles low attendance," Simon Yackulic, March 31)

A decade ago, it was policy that a councillor could be removed after systematic absenteeism, though there was also a practice of sending proxies to avoid penalizing those who were truly unable to attend.

Failing that, the best way is to report the hell out of council attendance through *The Gateway* and online. Perhaps incumbent councillors running for another term should be required to publish the ratio of missed to overall meetings on their faculty election campaign literature?

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 8



# Don't put off procrastinating



ALANA  
WILLERTON

The stench of stress and fear are in the air as final exams approach and I have just the remedy for your pre-exam blues: procrastination.

Before you break into a blind rage, think about it. It's true that over the years, procrastination has gotten a bad rap. People complain that they've had to stay up all night, that they're running on two hours of sleep, that they only wish they had started their work last week instead of the night before. And it's all well and good that they feel that way in the end. But did they feel that way in the process of getting there? No, because in the week leading up to their all-nighter, they were having a relaxing time doing nothing at all. One night of hard work is nothing if it means you get to spend the week before relaxing.

The thing to remember is this: procrastination is your friend. It won't ever judge you, it won't keep you waiting and it will save you from hours and hours of laborious studying. Who

wouldn't want a friend like that? And this doesn't just apply to final exams; procrastination is there for you whether you're writing a paper, doing your daily readings, or preparing for an upcoming quiz. There are no bounds to the places procrastination can be applied to the life of a university student.

**The thing to remember is this: procrastination is your friend. It won't ever judge you, it won't keep you waiting and it will save you from hours and hours of laborious studying.**

It occurs to me, though, that for some people — and you know who you are — the act of procrastinating is an entirely foreign way of thinking. Having time on your hands is a concept you are unfamiliar with at best, and given the opportunity, you would have no idea what to do with it. That's where I come in; let a master of procrastination show you how it's done.

The first place you can go is your trusty television set. If there's not enough reruns of any of the numerous CSI shows to fill your night, try a gem

like *My Strange Addiction* on TLC. A show featuring people who like to eat toilet paper and sleep with hairdryers is enough to distract and bemuse anyone for a good couple of hours.

If that's not doing it for you, then turn to your choice of comfort food. The smell of complicated delicacies like popcorn or bacon lingering in your house will keep your mind wandering and will make it nearly impossible for you to study. Sure, you might gain a few pounds in the process, but what are a few pounds in the grand scheme of procrastination? If all else fails, call your friends up. They may not be there for you like procrastination is, but they're better than studying. Follow any of these simple suggestions and you'll be able to procrastinate with the best of them.

Whatever you do though, don't go around claiming you don't procrastinate. We all do it, whether we like to admit it or not. That time you spent staring at the same page in your textbook for five hours? Yeah, that was procrastinating, but nice try at attempting to accomplish something. Take pride in being a procrastinator, and use that time to do something appropriately useless. It may come back to haunt you when you have to dust off your textbook the night before your exam, but you'll have had a glorious time getting there.

## THREELINESFREE

**Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at [threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca), tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree). There's only one issue left this year, so you're running out of time. I still avoid publishing people who spam my e-mail.**

To my first-year English classmates, no our prof won't do your hw, pre-grade your assignment or wipe your nose. Welcome to University!

Despite comprising the majority of the student population, however slight, it's still amazing to see that women are vastly underrepresented in our political sphere. WHITE MALES 4EVER!

Dear tall girl in Fren 212 @ 8/9am, Please keep the stories coming of all the stupid crazy shit you and your boyfriend do. Just kidding, shut up.

Girl, let's embrace with our differences.

You are, absolutely, without a doubt, the single most annoying person I have ever known.

7:30am on a Wednesday is not too early, to makeBEEPBEEPBEEP sounds. Tradespeople start work at 6am.

stop trying so hard to look cool and fucking SMILE

Don't bitch about nuclear power if you can't explain the physics behind it. "cough" arts majors...

I can get to class so much faster now that it's warm enough to go outside!

Love the new Gmail platform, but where the hell is its link on the UAlberta homepage? Also: the new sign-in process for Bear Tracks et al. is frakking annoying. Why doesn't the log-out page take you to somewhere useful, like a page with links?

There's really no need to push past me, I'm just as late for class as you are.

I just wanted to see if I could get this posted. :)

hey assholes in the 2K boys wing, don't you think that 430 am is a little early to be yelling and disturbing everyone else's sleep? Especially since it's 930 and you're STILL yelling?? STFU and think of others before you act stupid.

Hi. We're in class. Shut up. You're annoying the hell out of me. Thanks. :)

In Rutheford searching for book. PR, QS NR... Will I die here?

Damn it Rebecca Black, "bowl" does NOT FUCKING RHYME with "cereal".

re: guys with long hair, hell yes we like it, well, some of us do. the sexy ones ;)

TA stands for total asshole.

Hey smokers! Stop smoking on the way to class!!!! Some of us don't want to inhale poison the way you do!!! Also, obey the 5 meters rule!!!!!! Smoking right by a door IS NOT 5 meters away from it!!!!!!!!!!!!

What's the point in voting in an election when there are only 2 choices and 1 of them can't actually win because their a joke candidate? You wonder why voter turnout sucks, why don't you actually give me a choice?

glad you're moving out soon. :) bye bitch!

Why do people complain about people who complain on TLF? Little hypocritical, don'tcha think?

You're my best friend, but what you're doing is wrong. Please don't take this any further.

Anyone else sick and tired of the obvious spam emails they keep getting on their school emails offering jobs?

Alright I'm sick of likealittle so here goes: To the Asian (Filipino-like) girl at SUB sitting by H&S foundation on April 1st between 1-2 pm eating with a friend. You defied laws of physics for being incredibly beautiful. I would like to get to know you. If you read this, reply through @threelinesfree

I asked a male friend, and he said "because it's really tight"

Was anyone else as devastated as me after the latest version of Single Dad Banana?

If God exists, I wonder what his views are on flossing.

Hey, to answer your question: yes, some of us love long hair on guys. :)

To the asshole who wrote his autobiography piece in Opinion last week - I hope you don't continue to pollute our gene pool much longer

A couple was moving. Unaware friend came their home. Asked, "R u moving somewhere guys?". Reply - "No. No. Every one-two weeks we box up all our household things to see how many boxes it takes to pack them up!!"

To the guy in ANTHRO 101 who was sitting beside me, and we were both playing Brick Breaker: I totally have a better high score then you!

A shout-out to Evan and Matt: Stay handsome, you cheeky bastards.

Globes are imperialist

So if using my laptop keeps me awake longer...but orgasms help put you to sleep... what happens when I rub one out to internet porn before going to bed?

Bald dude in psych 267, you've gotta sexy criminal vibe. I dig it.

Hey assholes in CAB stop throwing pennies and carrots from the top floor! It's SUPER annoying!!!

Is it just me or is The SUN more violently offensive lately?

Dear Cute Engineers: please don't chat up the minority female population and consistently check us out unless you plan on making a move. It's fucking annoying.

University: can't tell if it's killing me or making me stronger.

there should be an application process to wear lululemon, too many girls think its a right... its a privilege!

I love it when Bear Tracks won't let me log on for three days leading up to my enrollment date.

There are still 5 minutes left in class. If you're putting away your books and putting on your coat already, you're making noise. It's inconsiderate to the person who is talking. Wait till class is over before packing up.

Fuck guys shave your jungle pubes, i almost puke everytime i see 3 inchers in the urinal!!!!

Biosci/CCIS needs to not cut through my Prof's 30 minute long review of Monday's class. More assigned readings to make up for it anyone?

I am really horny in Rutherford Library. Can i watch porn on university network without being caught?? I really wanna jerk off ;) Is anyone interested to give company?

Good night, you petrochemical porn lizards of the twitternet.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).



## GSJS Special General Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2011

6pm

Room 3-04  
Students' Union Building

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Introductory remarks
2. Voting for 2 Volunteer Representative to represent Gateway volunteers on the GSJS Board of Directors for the 2011/2012 publishing year.
3. Closing remarks

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to April 14 and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you meet these qualifications and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca). This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact Gateway Business Manager Ashleigh Brown at [biz@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) or visit [www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj)

## THE GATEWAY

### 2 Student-at-Large Board Members

**The Gateway Student Journalism Society requires two Students-At-Large from the university community to serve on the Board of Directors of the paper for the term from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012.**

#### Applicants:

- must be U of A students
- must not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the U of A Board of Governors, or the Senate of the U of A
- must not be current Gateway volunteers

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on why you'd be a good candidate for the position. Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though not necessary).

Application deadline: April 15, 2011

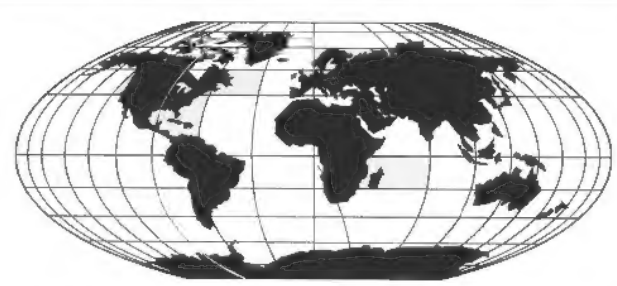
Applicants should submit 400 words max to Gateway Business Manager: Ashleigh Brown • (780) 492-6669 [biz@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)



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Have we offended you yet?

# FUCK.

One last chance.

## GATEWAY OPINION

Squeezing as much offensive, inflammatory, and insensitive content as possible into eight short months since 1910

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And see you next year.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

## Hastman's irrelevant campaign



SIMON  
YACKULIC

Local Conservative candidate Ryan Hastman has been running a boring, uninspired campaign, adding to an election that has effectively sidestepped the youth vote.

The riding that encompasses the University of Alberta, Edmonton-Strathcona, includes a large number of young voters. Although Hastman is a younger candidate, he has so far failed to draw attention towards any issues that might draw youth to the election. Unfortunately, this isn't all that rare, and Hastman is just a contemporary, local example of a long line of mainstream Canadian politicians who have ignored student concerns.

There are actual issues that resonate with young people that any politician would do well to address, and that haven't seen the light in this election — modernizing Canada's outdated copyright legislation being one example. While the legislation would address downloading, sharing music, books and information, the only bills that have so far addressed this issue have been Conservative proposals in Parliament that have echoed restrictive American bills. While they've neglected to debate copyright legislation so far on the campaign trail, even the other mainstream election campaigns have been virtually silent on their stances on the topic.

While all the major parties can be blamed for focusing on issues that are irrelevant to anyone who understands how to use an iPhone, Hastman, who is the chief rival in this election to incumbent Linda Duncan, goes above and beyond the call of duty when it

comes to being completely irrelevant to young voters. His dedication to ignoring the younger demographic is especially inexplicable, considering that his constituents include many university students.

Hastman has labelled Duncan "a single issue NDP candidate." A quick glance at the youthful warrior's website shows where his criticism is coming from, as Hastman has not only a large platform that touches on many issues without saying anything, but is also written in simple, unspecific language that is basically an insult to the intelligence of anyone in this riding.

Hastman promises generally happy thoughts, like "a stronger economy," "safer communities," and "strong families." These might be good things, but they do nothing to explain tangible goals that Hastman wants to accomplish, like a actual platform should.

"We need a diversified and strong economy. We need more entrepreneurs and small businesses. We need safer streets and less crime. Our young people need more mentors and positive choices," his boring and uninspired website elaborates on the home page.

I'm sure students will be impressed that, unlike the many candidates out there who might be pro-crime, he comes out solidly against crime and unsafe streets. He also makes a principled stand in favour of "positive choices," whatever that means. What will Hastman fight for in Ottawa? What does he actually want to do? His website doesn't give the slightest indication. In fact, it isn't clear if he has any opinions of his own, since his entire platform seems to be borrowed from the national Conservative campaign. This has become far too common for lazy candidates destined for the backbenches, and it's misleading for voters who would hope

to learn something about their local candidate from their website, instead of being presented with vague information about the national party. In the age of Google, if I want information about the national conservative platform, I can search for it myself; if I want to know that a candidate has views of their own, they should show me on their website.

It's unfortunate that such a young candidate hasn't taken the chance to create a platform to reach the large university population living in the riding. His website has a section called "working for you," which discusses how he'll work for seniors and families, but doesn't mention what he'll do for anyone in the university age group.

But I guess I should be open to the possibility that this may have been a conscious choice. Polling data published in *The Globe and Mail* has indicated that if more young people voted, more non-Conservative candidates would be elected. Alas, young people don't vote; the more their issues are ignored, the more they'll avoid the polling booth and the more they'll be ignored the following election. When young Canadians allow themselves to be manipulated in this fashion, the problem spirals.

Hastman, or some campaign volunteer, recently updated his Facebook status to claim that he "will listen to & serve every constituent, not only the narrow special interests." Apparently "every constituent" in Hastman's campaign doesn't apply to students who will be shaping the future of our country.

The fact that boring and vague campaigns that are light on substance are hardly new or rare doesn't exonerate Hastman. A candidate from the current governing party can't be given a pass on an unimaginative campaign that ignores the student demographic in a university riding.

#### LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Or require faculty associations to post their individual councillors' attendance records somewhere conspicuous?

"NEUMANIC"  
Via Internet

### Enforcing attendance through guilt and shame

RE: ("Council tackles low attendance," Simon Yackulic, March 31)

I'm very happy to learn that council is getting the ball rolling on quashing councillor absenteeism. There are certainly

some councillors who very rarely attend, and these councillors need to be dealt with.

I'm not certain that informing FA/CA's is the best route to take, however. As VP Eastham pointed out, some FA/CA's are incredible ineffective, and wouldn't bat an eyelash to the notification that their elected SU representative wasn't attending council regularly since they don't even represent their own students properly. I would agree that an online system would be better. If it's the "shame" factor they are going for, I would suggest updating the council webpage to include pictures of all the councillors, and an attendance record for each. If it were updated once

or twice a semester, it shouldn't be too time consuming. This way, not only do the students see that their councillor is not attending, but they actually see *who* this person is.

If you can not attend regularly, and perform the duty you were elected to do, then do not run for council. Save the position for someone who can do the job.

"IT'S ABOUT TIME"  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) or delivered via paper airplane to SUB 3-04. This is your last chance to get in the paper.





KAITLYN MENARD

# Gertrude Stein Project brings a complex artist to life

## theatre review

### The Gertrude Stein Project

Directed and adapted by Beau Coleman  
Designed by Katherine Jenkins  
Starring Spenser Payne, Peter Fernandes,  
Samantha Hill, Nicola Elbro, and  
Jamie Cavanagh  
Runs until April 9 at 7:30 p.m.,  
matinée performance on Thursday,  
April 7 at 12:30 p.m.  
Timms Centre for the Arts  
(87 Avenue and 112 Street)  
\$5–20 at Tix-on-the-Square or at  
the Timms box office

ALEX MIGDAL  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

*The Gertrude Stein Project* isn't a play, but a performance creation — a fascinating and visually charged landscape that toys with the audience's

senses. Much of it is abstract and confusing at times, yet the meaning is never missing. It's an appropriate depiction of an equally abstract woman whose words stray between the realms of inexplicability and fiery fervour.

The plot is appropriately minimal, but interspersed among fragmented, schizophrenic bits is the story's linear core. Leon Katz (Jamie Cavanagh), a Yale professor, discovers thousands of Stein's notes in the Yale archives, which leads him to Stein's longtime partner Alice B. Toklas. Stein is played alternately by Spenser Payne and Peter Fernandes representing different periods of her life, while Samantha Hill and Nicola Elbro share the portrayal of Toklas.

Through their exhaustive interviews, Katz pieces together the many remnants of Stein's life that are rooted in her various roles, including writer and noted art collector. He would share his findings with the show's director Beau Coleman years later, allowing her to give us a peek inside the deeply personal experiences of a reclusive intellectual.

The Leon and Alice narrative serves as the

foundation of *The Gertrude Stein Project*, but the heart and soul of the production is in its striking design. Playing a fundamental role is The White Core, a five-person assemblage who use movement to flesh out Stein's idiosyncratic wordplay. Delightfully oddball moments are thrown in for good measure, accentuated by such elements as the projection of Stein's words on screen and video footage of the real-life Katz.

All these unique moments make up something that isn't so much a play, but a moving painting — a creation Stein surely would have appreciated. While experimental theatre poses the risk of being too conceptual, often breaking ties between the viewer and the stage, the style feels warranted in *The Gertrude Stein Project*. Stein's complicated text doesn't fit within the simple conventions of theatre. The audaciousness of her art requires a more visceral approach, something that Coleman has achieved beautifully.

It also helps that the performances are of startling authenticity. There's a tangible sense of cohesion among the cast, as various actors flow

effortlessly on and off stage in the show's expertly directed scenes. Spenser Payne is particularly astonishing as the younger version of Stein. She's not only camouflaged by impressive costuming and makeup, but also disappears into moments of heartache and biting aggression. Samantha Hill is just as delightful playing the younger Toklas, spitting her words out with frenetic energy.

Perhaps what *The Gertrude Stein Project* succeeds at most is its faithfulness to Stein's one-of-a-kind perspective on theatre. This is, by all accounts, a true theatre landscape, in which the viewers make acquaintance with the stage, but the stage stands on its own.

*The Gertrude Stein Project* isn't an engaging narrative, and ends almost too abruptly, but the intersection of movement, visuals, and sound with Stein's text draws you in at every moment. It's a fitting homage to the life of an important artist, and true to the words of Stein herself: "The business of Art [...] is to live in the actual present, the complete actual present, and to completely express that complete actual present."



# The horror story that lives next door

## film review

### Insidious

Directed by James Wan  
Written by Leigh Whannell  
Starring Patrick Wilson and  
Rose Byrne  
Now Playing

GAVIN BRADLEY  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Filling the void left in the horror genre after the death of the immensely popular *Scream* trilogy proved tricky for Hollywood. People were bored with knife-wielding maniacs sporting masks and menacing voices, and craved some sort of intellectual depth to their frights. With nothing but a scattering of soulless remakes and sequels numbering into the low hundreds (such as *Nightmare on Elm Street 17*, *Freddy vs Freddy: This Time It's Unnecessary*), moviegoers were crying out for something different. What they got was *Final Destination*, the horror genre's take on lining up some dominoes and knocking them down, ushering in the age of "torture porn." But moviegoers still needed something more.

That call was duly answered by director James Wan and writer/actor Leigh Whannell in the form of *Saw*, which

delivered altogether more effort and intelligence, along with the realization that we'd never be able to eat in the cinema again. Now, with the franchise having run its course with a string of hopeless sequels and the YouTube generation slipping back into lazy documentary-style horrors, Wan and Whannell are back to save the day with *Insidious*.

The story follows a young family that, after moving into a new house, realize that there are supernatural goings-on when their son falls into an unexplained coma. But rather than relying on the squeaky floorboards, mischievous wind, and pesky moving furniture for scares, *Insidious* invokes the imagination of the *Saw* films — albeit to less of a lunch-losing effect — with a teasing backstory and an interesting shift in emphasis from the struggling young mother alone in the house to the troubled father searching for salvation. Both characters are portrayed admirably by Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne, with the latter turning in an impressive performance as the increasingly desperate mother and wife.

Less about provoking a reaction with gore and more about getting people jumping from their seats, *Insidious* is very much a throwback to the halcyon days of horror where ghouls, spirits, and demons tormented innocent families simply because they were bored.

In fact, on first glance you might be forgiven for thinking you had accidentally walked into a showing of the 1980s classic *Poltergeist*, due largely to the similar style and storyline.

While many of the early scares in the film are somewhat familiar and predictable, *Insidious* stays true to its name, and gradually builds to a climax comparable only to Stephen King's nightmares after he eats an entire wheel of cheese. On the whole, most of the shocks are delivered to perfection, accompanied by a relentlessly terrifying soundtrack that will make you want to hunt down the orchestra in the background and smash their violins.

However, the film's real triumph is in avoiding the pitfalls of many recent horror outings, resisting the temptation that a small budget might bring to shoot the film entirely on a mobile phone. Gone too, are the busty blondes and cocky jocks of the *Friday the 13th* variety, replaced with the everyday American family.

An old-style ghost story for a younger generation, *Insidious* is more of a *Devil Rides Out* than a *Drag Me to Hell*, and teaches us once more not to underestimate the power of the horror film. Like an axe-wielding psychopath who's just been shot, stabbed, and run over, it can always come back to life.



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DANIELLE JENSON

## A chorus of lovable evildoers for *The Threepenny Opera*

### theatrepreview

#### The Threepenny Opera

Directed by Curtis Knecht

Music direction by Sally Hunt

Written by Bertolt Brecht

Starring John Evans, Gerald Mason, Kristen M. Finlay, Charity Principe, Lauren Kneteman, and Kara Chamberlain

Runs April 6-16 at 8 p.m., matinee performance on Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.

Walterdale Playhouse (10322-83 Avenue)

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ALANA WILLERTON  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Don't let the title fool you: the latest musical to be staged at the Walterdale Theatre may include the word "opera," but by no means will you be encountering any aristocratic snobs — at least, not on stage. In *The Threepenny Opera*, you'll instead find yourself cheering for the bad guys — in fact, you'll have no other choice.

"All of the characters are basically caricatures of the evil that they are," admits director Curtis Knecht. "There's really not a nice person in the entire show."

With offences as severe as rape and murder levelled against the characters, "nice" would be putting it kindly. For John Evans, who plays the lead role of Mack the Knife, delving into a character so opposite from himself in every way was no easy task.

"It was hard to find him at first, obviously, because I'm not a dark sociopath who rapes and kills and murders," says Evans. "Mack the Knife is one of those guys that, when he loses interest in a girl, he doesn't dump them so much as

kill them and then dump them in the river. So he's psychotic. He's a bit of a sociopath; he's not like me."

Mack the Knife may not be a squeaky clean character, but he has his own struggles to deal with as well. *The Threepenny Opera* revolves around the conflict that arises when he marries Polly Peachum (Kara Chamberlain) against the wishes of her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Peachum, played by Gerald Mason and Kristen M. Finlay, then begin to conspire to see Mack hanged, enlisting the help of Mack's gang along the way.

**"Mack the Knife is one of those guys that, when he loses interest in a girl, he doesn't dump them so much as kill them and then dump them in the river. So he's psychotic. He's a bit of a sociopath; he's not like me."**

JOHN EVANS

MACK THE KNIFE, *THE THREEPENNY OPERA*

With vindictive characters like this running rampant, it's not hard to see where a musical as dark and gritty as *The Threepenny Opera* might become difficult to swallow. That, according to Evans, is where the humour comes in.

"We brought a little comedic element back to it as well, so that it wouldn't feel jarringly psychotic," he explains.

Director Knecht credits the script, written by Bertolt Brecht in 1928, for finding that perfect balance between the humorous and serious sides of the show.

"A lot of [Brecht's] work was very political; protests against the treatment of the poor, exploitation of the rich, corruption of authority," explains Knecht. "So this *Threepenny Opera* is full of all of that kind of thing. It's not hidden at all — very blatant and very blunt."

"There's also a dark string of humour that goes through the entire show," he adds. "That's a very Brecht thing; he used this humour to sort of distance the very blunt socio-political part from the humour. That keeps it distant because the audience has to be entertained. That was his biggest point: he wanted them to enjoy themselves, but get the message."

Part political commentary, part dark comedy, *The Threepenny Opera* combines these two seemingly opposite concepts in both drama and music. As the title suggests, the musical is first and foremost an opera. However, jazz influences have also found their way into the music in a major way. The most well-known song in the show, "Mack the Knife," is a go-to classic for jazz and pop artists, ranging from Ella Fitzgerald to Michael Bublé. Knecht suspects this is where expectations may differ from the reality of *The Threepenny Opera*.

"It's still an opera," he says. "The music is jazz-influenced, but it's not finger-snapping, 'hey, how ya doin'' kind of music."

With its theatrical mix of humour, drama, and a diverse set of musical influences, *The Threepenny Opera* creates a gripping dramatic experience. And although the cast seems to be made up of bad guys, their message is ultimately a positive one.

"Forgive the bad things that happen in life, and don't punish us because of what we do because life is hard enough" — that's the message that the ensemble sings right at the very end of the show," Knecht says. "We're bad people; we do bad things. But don't be too hard on us, because life is hard enough."

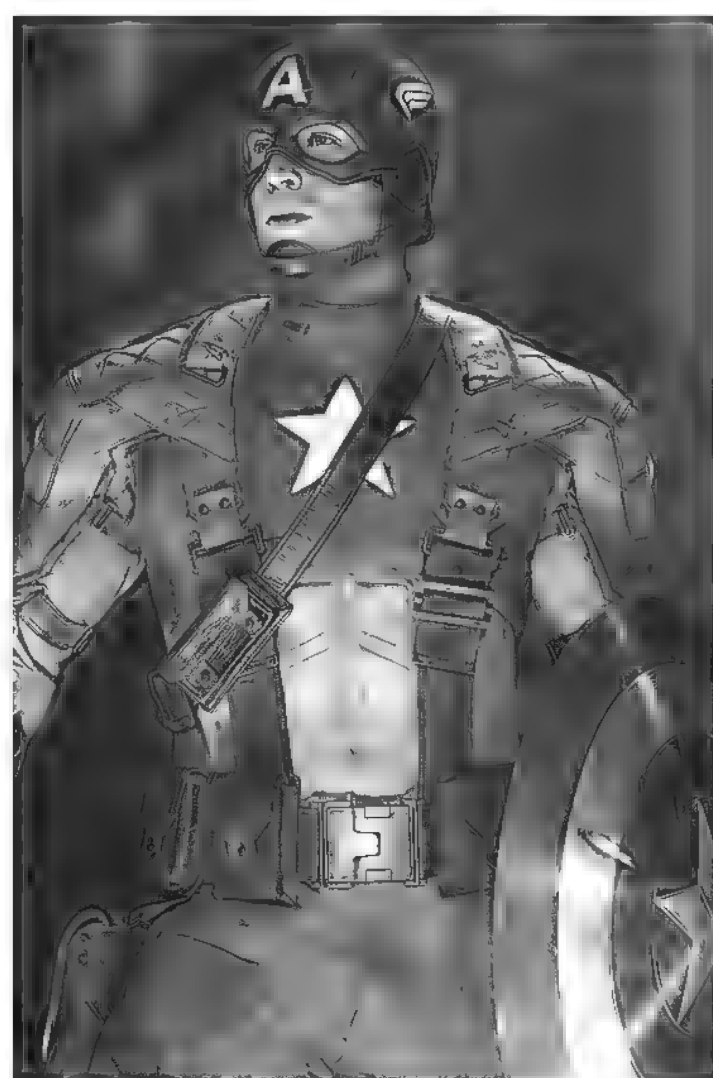


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## A new season of superheroes and sequels at the cinema



KORY ORBAN

A&E  
Commentary

The summer movie season is almost upon us: a time of both trepidation and excitement for avid moviegoers. This is when Hollywood offers up some of its biggest flops, as well as some of its most memorable films. Although creative risk is almost always minimized in the season of the blockbuster, financial risk is at an all-time high. Millions of dollars are pumped into what will either become massive successes or giant pieces of crap.

This summer season kicks off with the release of *Thor*. Based on Marvel's answer to the Nordic myth, *Thor* and

the July release of *Captain America* are the last films in the lead-up to the 2012 release of superhero epic *The Avengers*. Both movies have a lot riding on them for Marvel, and if the trailers are any indication of quality, they look ready to deliver exactly what we expect. In no way do they appear to be breaking the superhero mold, but why should they? A buff hero, a sinister villain, some flashy special effects, and maybe a love interest are all you really need for a satisfying superhero flick.

Another comic book film also trying to save the day this summer is *Green Lantern*. A mash-up of sci-fi and superhero goodness, the film is about a US Air Force pilot who comes into contact with an alien ring that bestows upon him the power to create anything he pictures with his mind. One potentially worrying aspect about *Green Lantern* is that it features Ryan Reynolds in the lead

role — he really managed to fuck up his character Deadpool in 2009's *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. Luckily, the film is in the capable directorial hands of Martin Campbell, the man who successfully reinvigorated the Bond franchise with *Casino Royale*.

After the flashy special effects of the summer superhero flicks wear off, the season just wouldn't be complete without a few sequels. This summer is no exception, with the arrival of *The Hangover II* and *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 2*.

The new Harry Potter flick is already destined to be a smash hit. Essentially, as denoted by "Part 1" and "Part 2," the movie is more a continuation of the series' final installment than a sequel, and the first half has already garnered fanfare, critical acclaim, and financial success. No big surprises expected here.

But *The Hangover Part II* could

go either way. The first movie was the sleeper hit of 2009, and it killed audience and box office expectations alike. The anticipation for its sequel is incredibly high, and it has yet to be proven if the series has enough mojo to transfer into a full-fledged franchise. Hopefully, the Wolf Pack has enough teeth to do it again. If not, maybe just slam some roofalins and you'll forget the whole thing ever happened.

Another theme that seems to be emerging this summer is plopping a once-famous star into a completely bizarre movie. *The Beaver*, starring everyone's favourite anti-Semitic troublemaker Mel Gibson, has the actor playing a hopelessly depressed family man who utilizes a puppet beaver with an English accent as a communication tool. Seriously, who knew Gibson was capable of going even further off the deep end? If this continues, he'll be well on his way to

Charlie Sheen-inspired Tiger Blood status.

In kind, Jim Carrey will appear in *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, a film about a man and his very special roommates: a bunch of penguins. Granted, Jim Carrey's image isn't as tarnished as Gibson's, but his star seems to have faded in recent years. In response, like Gibson, Carrey has elected to star in a movie to which the only appropriate response is: "Are you kidding me?" But who knows — maybe this will be the movie that gets Carrey that little gold statue he's pined for throughout his career.

Any way you slice it, the summer movie season has something for everyone. Whether you like beavers, puppets, or superheroes, you should be able to find something that catches your eye. If not, all the past year's Oscar contenders will be on DVD just in time for you to avoid the theatres all summer long.



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# Stead given the Gridiron Bears clipboard

After the resignation of veteran head coach Jerry Friesen, Jeff Stead steps into the top position with novel ideas to rejuvenate the struggling squad

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

A new era has dawned for the Gridiron Golden Bears.

Last week, the University of Alberta Athletics department announced the promotion of Jeff Stead to the head coaching duties for the varsity football program. Taking over on an interim basis after the resignation of veteran bench boss Jerry Friesen, Stead has now become the 26th head coach in the Green and Gold football team's illustrious history.

**"I'm going to put my stamp on this program. [...] Being prepared will allow our players to be more confident and bring some swagger to their game."**

JEFF STEAD  
HEAD COACH, BEARS FOOTBALL

While he may not have much experience leading an entire team at the CIS level, the novice head coach is looking to hit the ground running to infuse his unique football philosophies into the team.

"I'm going to put my stamp on this program," Stead said. "We are going to be a high-tempo team. We are going to be a team that's always prepared, and being prepared will allow our players to be more confident and bring some swagger to their game. I walked into the room and told them, 'Listen there's nobody in this room that's got more swagger than me, so let's jump on board and let's get going.'"

After several meetings to soothe the team's anxieties over the sudden coaching change, the Bears held their first spring training camp this weekend.

And as Stead explained, any trepidation that he may have had prior to the initial practices were quickly washed away when his athletes took a knee for his first official speech.

Stepping into the top job after three years on the Green and Gold's offensive coaching staff as an assistant, Stead has his work cut out for him. Over the past three years, the Bears have put together a disappointing 11-23 record and have struggled to consistently play at an elite level against their Canada West opponents. But after a come-from-behind victory over the Saskatchewan Huskies in last year's divisional semifinal, the Gridiron Bears will certainly come into their season opener this September with plenty of poise — something that Stead will hope to maintain and utilize throughout his first year as head coach.

"We shocked the nation. It's something that we're looking to build upon," Stead said. "Now I've just got to get their confidence up for what they've got to do so that they can get out there and play to the best of their abilities. Our players aren't dumb; they're smart people. They are going to buy in, because if these guys do, they're good. Like, they're real good."

If getting his players to commit to his team-first mandate is Stead's first goal, it appears that he's already made some giant leaps forward. After practice on Saturday evening, third-year offensive lineman Thomas Fry exuded a genuine faith in his new head coach.

"Coach Stead is going to bring a lot of good things to the team. We have a lot of younger players, so I think he's going to bring some newer coaching techniques to the program," Fry said, admitting that while he was shocked by the sudden resignation of Jerry Friesen, he's found some light at the end of the tunnel.

The Bears spring training camp continues this weekend in preparation for their first regular season match in September against the Saskatchewan Huskies.



MATT HIRJI

## Reade begins second term as Director of Athletics, aims for excellence

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

Nearly 10 years after he stepped aside as the University of Alberta director of athletics, Ian Reade returned to his desk this week to begin his second term in the Athletics office.

Reade, who was announced as the new athletics director in February to permanently fill the role vacated by the retirement of Dale Schulha last year, enters the position with a wide-ranging mandate to improve the state of varsity athletics on campus under the university's current fiscal constraints. In order to achieve this goal, Reade is pushing a strategy he's labeled "The Alberta Model" — a strategy that aims to create continuity amongst the vast resources that his department has to utilize.

"The University of Alberta is different than all of the other CIS programs in that it has a big PhD

program," Reade said. "Then you look at the facilities that we have — the opportunity for us to do some pretty incredible things with academic programs, with the Golden Bears and Pandas, is extremely high. The Alberta Model is to make all of our available resources work in a cohesive way towards varsity performance and the creation of new knowledge through sports science."

Reade becomes the eighth athletics director in the history of the program, and has plenty of prior experience in athletics administration.

He previously held the position from 1993 to 2001, leading Alberta's varsity teams to 21 national championships during his tenure. Now, after 10 years away from the position — a break that allowed Reade to earn his doctorate in Sport Management — he aims to replicate his previous success under a new paradigm.

While Reade was known during

his first tenure as a director willing to spend money to improve the Bears' and Pandas' athletic successes, he's confident that his new model will continue to foster varsity achievement without digging further into his department's operating budget.

"It's not a financially driven model at all. It actually might be a cheaper structure. Or it might be the same amount of revenue, but just more services for athletes, and coaches, and students. In the end, you would hope that the Alberta Model would actually make you money, but in the shorter term, there is no reason to expect that it's going to cost more money," Reade said.

So with his strategy laid out, Reade's biggest challenge will be to institute the Alberta Model in a practical way and encouraging all 25 varsity teams on campus to embrace the new strategy.

But, as the new athletics director

admits, that task will be arduous and he may even need to pull a few teeth to make his strategy come to fruition. Bringing coaches into the model and encouraging them to make sacrifices on their team's time for the betterment of academic knowledge and the athletics department as a whole will be uphill battle.

challenge to try to get a coach, who's worried almost entirely about winning their next game, to work with a young, inexperienced, masters student. They are going to be hanging around the team trying to learn, while the coach thinks that they have to win this next game because they think that their job is on the line.

**"The Alberta Model is to make all of our available resources work in a cohesive way towards varsity performance and the creation of new knowledge through sports science."**

IAN READE  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

"It seems like a fairly simple thing to do, but it's not. And it's not done anywhere else in the country," Reade said. "It's not an insignificant

So the coach doesn't want to deal with this student. [...] Getting these pieces working together is the biggest challenge."



## STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

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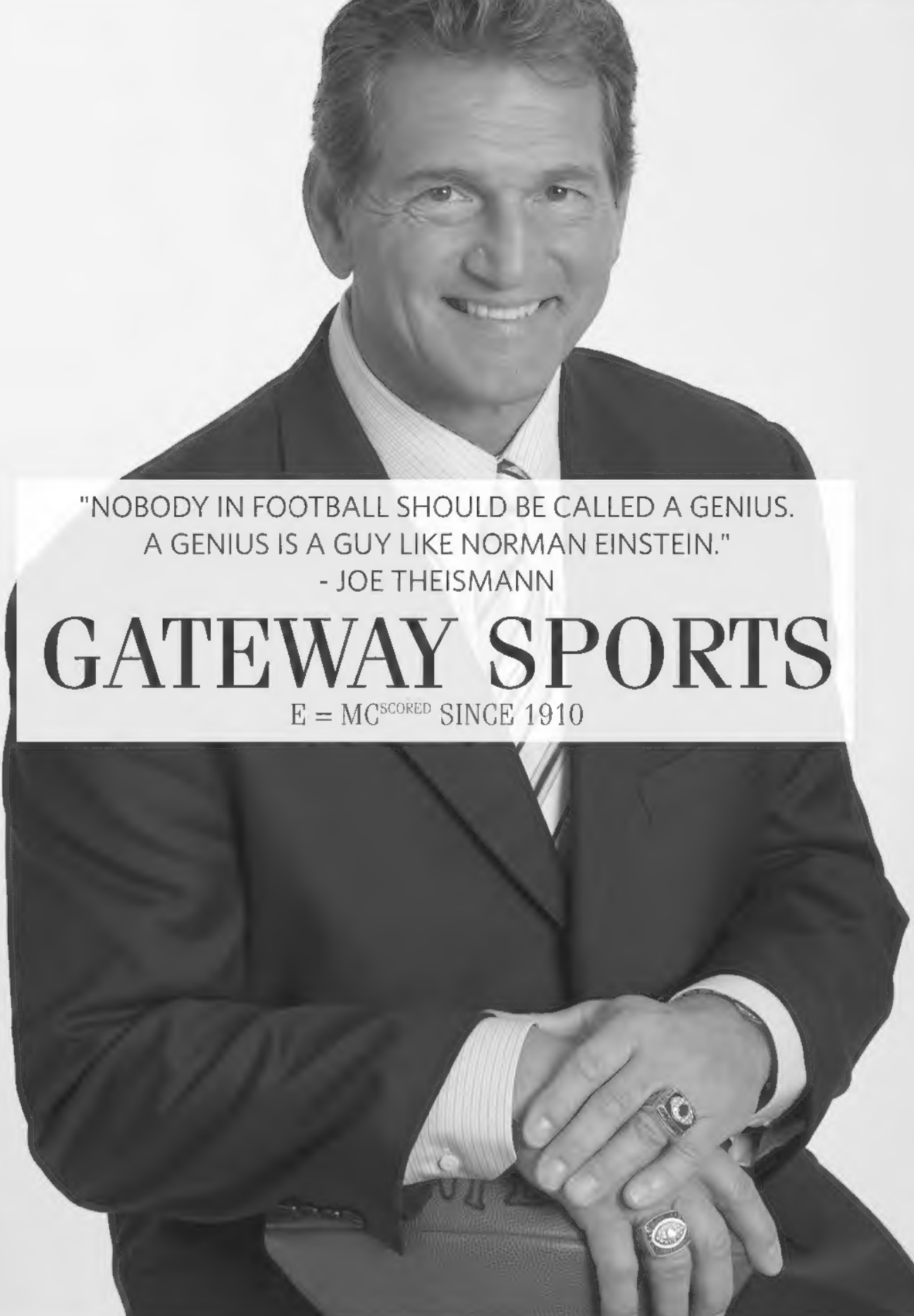
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ROSS VINCENT

## Jays following a dismal flight path

Toronto's management is handicapping the squad's chances for improvement

MATT  
HIRJISports  
Commentary

**T**his weekend, the Toronto Blue Jays began their 35th season with a home stand against the Minnesota Twins. After years of disappointment and months of off-season restructuring, the three-game series was billed as the Jays' coming-out party.

Perhaps this is the new generation of the Blue and White. Canada's only big-league team won their first two games against a strong Twins squad and ended up outscoring their opposition by a combined total of 21-8. And to the delight of a sold-out crowd on Friday evening, the Blue Jays claimed 10 runs in their first five innings of play. The performance left Canadian baseball fans in a frenzy. The twinkle of a World Series trophy is in our eyes. Perhaps this is finally the season that the Jays will overcome the odds and triumph once again.

Hold your horses here, Jays Nation. Get ready for some disappointing news. This season isn't going to be any different than the last 17 that have come before it.

Since 1993, the last time that the Blue Jays won a World Series, the club's combined winning percentage has been a dismal .491. In the Jays' home of the American League East,

featuring powerhouse teams like the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, a record like this isn't going to cut it. That's readily apparent in the number of playoff appearances that the Jays have made in that span: zero.

Now that the Blue Jays are 18 years removed from their whirlwind World Series championship seasons, you might expect they may have matured. But there is always one thing the Blue Jays' upper management has been unable to do in nearly a quarter of a lifetime: get back to the playoffs.

**Hold your horses here, Jays nation. Get ready for some disappointing news. This season isn't going to be any different than the last 17 that have come before it.**

Inexplicably, the three general managers over that time period have been unable to create a team able to compete against the new trends of modern baseball that rewards teams developing a lineup that's able to outslug their opposition in every game.

And now Alex Anthopoulos, the current Blue Jays general manager, is making the same stupid mistakes as his predecessors. For a team that has the habit of losing and signing all the wrong players, Anthopoulos isn't

breaking the trend.

This year's incarnation of the Jays have been billed as the speed club. After their most prolific hitter in years, Vernon Wells, left the team during the offseason, the Blue Jays revamped their roster, bringing in a plethora of speedy players in an attempt to fill the gaping hole. Unfortunately, in the modern day of swinging for the fences, an offence that emphasizes small ball and a bullpen made of Swiss cheese isn't going to stack up against the rest of the American League East lineups pumped full of prolific swingers.

There are plenty of excuses for why the Blue Jays have been unable to make it to the big dance in such a long time. The realities of competing in a relatively small market largely uninterested in major league baseball places plenty of constraints on the amount of money the team is able to spend to attract big-name talent. That certainly makes competing in the same division as the hyper-wealthy New York Yankees a difficult task, but it doesn't justify failure. The Tampa Bay Rays are in the same situation as the Jays, but through tactful player acquisitions and intelligent coaching, the Rays have been able to win a pair of divisional titles and an AL pennant within the past two years alone.

The Jays may have started strong, but don't expect the boys of summer to survive until October. And unless the Jays embark on a massive paradigm shift, we might be seeing plenty of sad faces inside the SkyDome for years to come.



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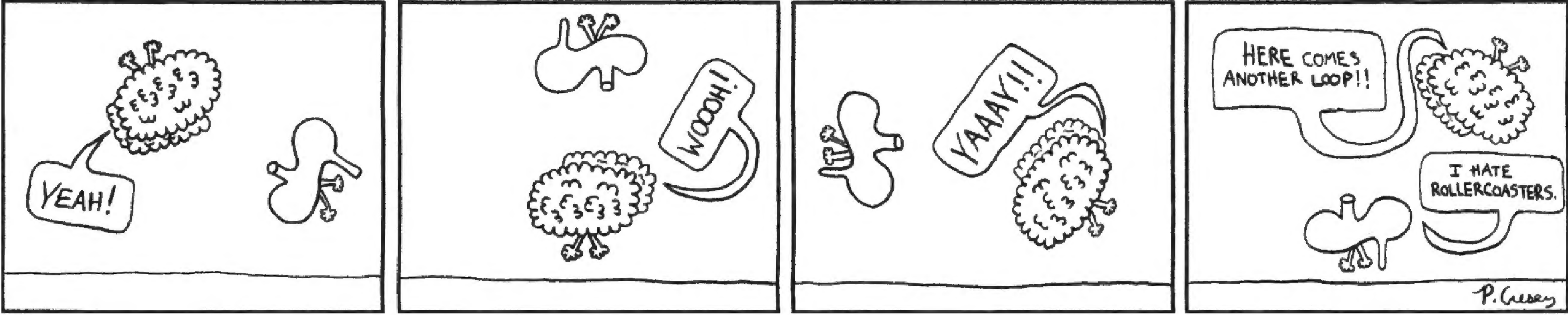
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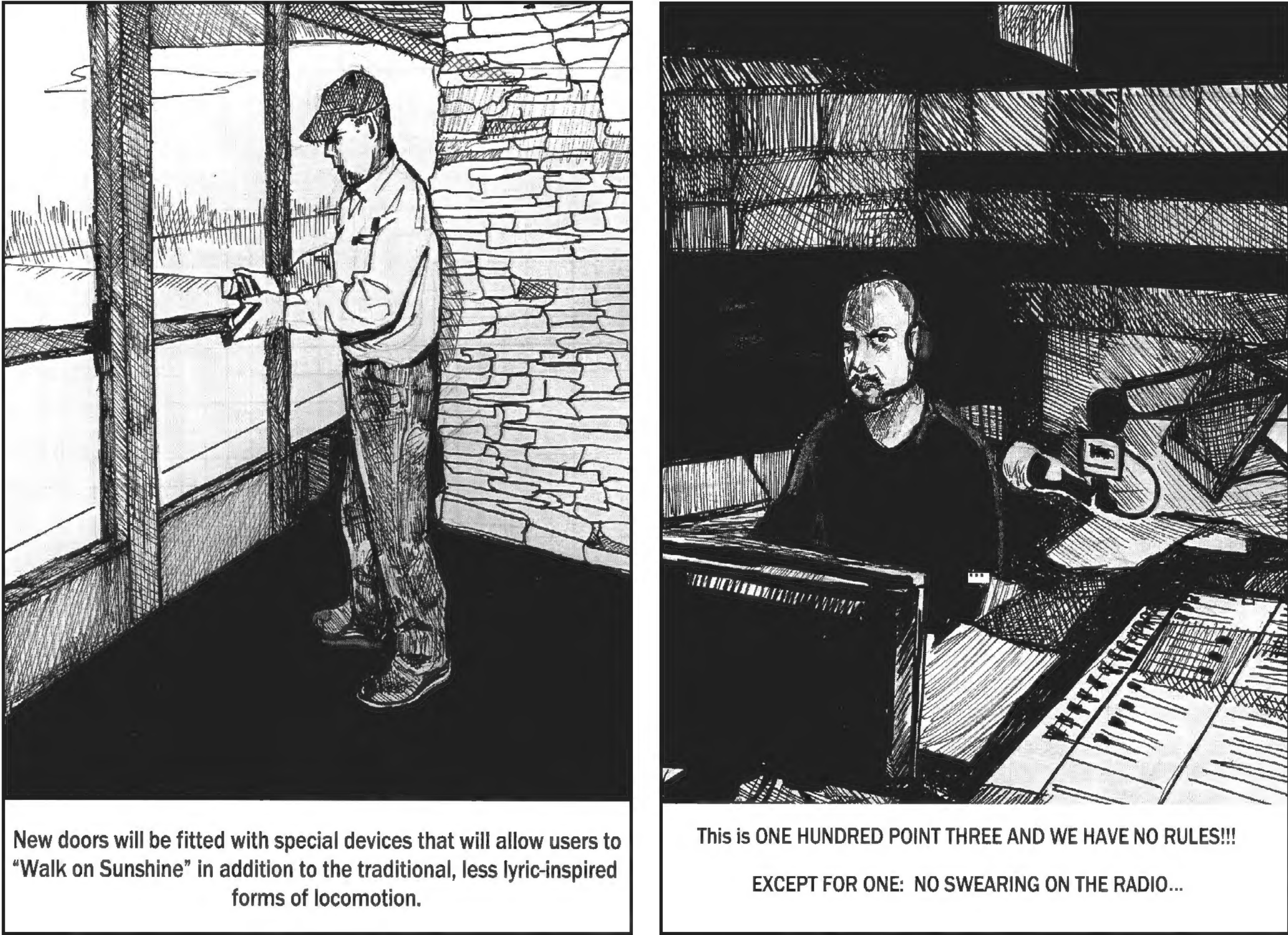
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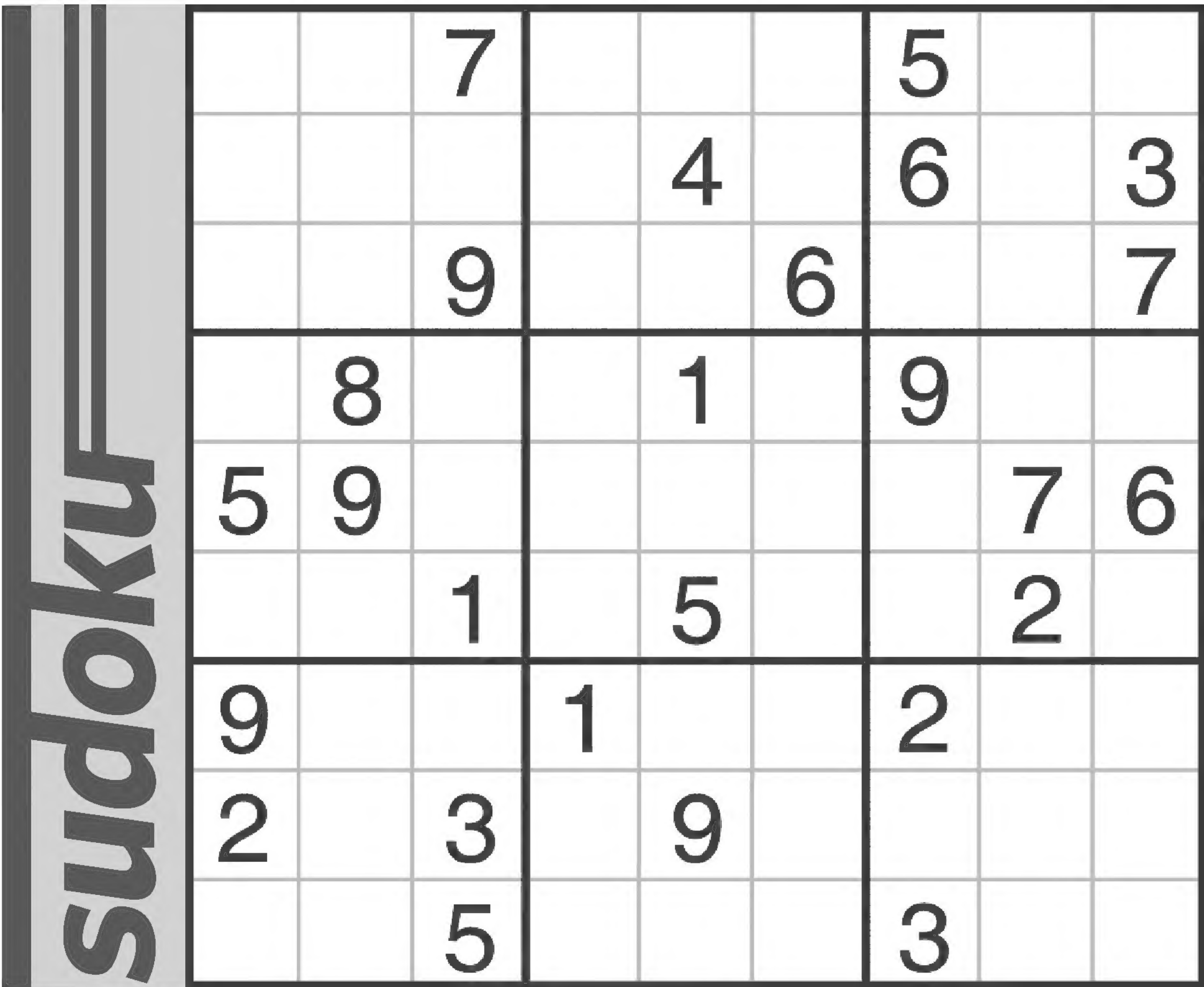
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13 PEOPLE I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

1. Gaston from *Beauty and the Beast*. I've heard good things about him. In song form.
2. Bret "The Hitman" Hart. A strong voice

from the West, strongly opposed to Montreal screwjobs.

3. Tommy Wiseau. You're TEARING ME APART, NAFTA! Oh hi Mark.
4. Emperor Palpatine. What could possibly go wrong?
5. Rick Mercer. Y'know, if he's not too busy wrecking our sleds.
6. Sheepert. His cuddly-wuddliness will bring people together, until he starts to reek of old man funk. I hope he's washable.
7. Gilles Duceppe. Hahahahahahaha, lol. No.
8. Mike. Mike! Mike! MIKE! MIKE!
9. Bill Nye the Science Guy, if only as eye candy for the lady electorate.
10. Captain Janeway, because I got this far without mentioning a woman and I was hard-pressed to think of a strong female character in a leadership position. Does that make me sexist?
11. Single Dad Banana. He seems like the type you can trust with major responsibility.
12. Frank Robinson. You do NOT want to cross that man. He will mess you up.
13. Christopher Walken. He will work tirelessly to solve Canada's shortage of cowbell. Yes, it IS an old reference.







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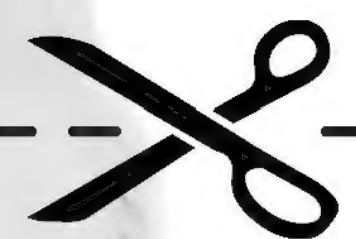
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